

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a propensity of an HCV-infected individual to respond response effectively to treatment of interferon- α and ribavirin combined therapy, the method comprising: detecting presence of a single nucleotide polymorphism analyzing a polynucleotide sample derived from the individual for presence of genetic polymorphisms in CD81 gene (SEQ ID NO: 46) and determining that said individual has said propensity to respond effectively to said, wherein the polymorphisms are associated with the treatment efficacy of interferon- α and ribavirin combined therapy if said single nucleotide polymorphism is present, wherein said single nucleotide polymorphism is selected from the group consisting of a T at rs800136, a T at rs800137, a G at rs800334, an A at pos1989603, a T at rs2522012, an A at rs2522013, and a T at rs800335.

Claims 2-9 (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting presence of said single nucleotide polymorphism further comprises the

step of analyzing analysis of the a polynucleotide sample to determine the presence of said single nucleotide polymorphism is performed by performing a process selected from the group consisting of detection of specific hybridization, measurement of allele size, restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis, allele-specific hybridization analysis, single base primer extension reaction, and sequencing of an amplified polynucleotide.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a propensity of an HCV-infected individual to respond response effectively to treatment of interferon- α and ribavirin combined therapy, the method comprising: an analysis detecting the presence of haplotype in CD81 gene (SEQ ID NO: 46) and its flanking regions and determining that said individual has said propensity to respond effectively to said treatment of interferon- α and ribavirin combined therapy if said haplotype is present, wherein said haplotype is a C at rs800136, a C at rs800137 or a TGGCC haplotype for single nucleotide polymorphisms at rs800334, pos1989603, rs2522012, rs2522013 and rs800335.